

# The FLYER

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 / Student-run newspaper

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## ABOUT

The Flyer is Salisbury University's student newspaper-composed by students for students. The organization was established in 1973 to keep to SU community informed and entertained.

Issues are published monthly throughout the regular school year and prints are printed by Delaware Printing Company of Dover, DE. A total of 800 copies are distributed on campus per circulation.

The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe a factual error has been printed, feel free to contact the staff. Thank you.

After reaching the halfway mark of the fall semester, Salisbury University's COVID-19 positivity rate stands at just 0.2% over the past week, with 0.7% positivity over the last 30 days, according to the SU coronavirus dashboard.

Out of the nearly 2,000 tests administered on campus community members last week, only four positive cases of the virus were detected.

During his weekly COVID-19 briefing SU President Charles Wight did warn, however, that, "as we head into the winter season, this is not the time to let our guard down," and encouraged campus community members to continue adhering to the university's social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines.

Wight previously announced that the university's coronavirus response plan includes maintaining its current combination of in-person, online and hybrid-for-

## NEWS

### SU Commencement to be held virtually

By Jakob Todd / News Editor



*SU will hold its first-ever virtual graduation ceremony in December.*  
*Salisbury University Facebook*

The Salisbury University commencement for the class of 2020 will be held virtually on Saturday, Dec. 19, according to an email from the President's Office.

All 2020 graduates will be recognized, though separate ceremonies will be held for graduate and undergraduate students.

"While this isn't the commencement we had hoped for our graduates, we are committed to the safety of our students, families, and community as COVID-19 continues to impact our nation and the world," SU President Charles Wight said during his weekly COVID-19 briefing. Summer and fall graduates will be receiving celebration boxes in December, just as spring graduates had last semester, per the email.

According to the email, the decision

### COVID-19 nearly eradicated from SU campus

By Jakob Todd/ News Editor

matted instruction after Thanksgiving break.

The announcement came despite other institutions across the nation planning to conclude the fall semester virtually, not bringing any students back to campus, following the November holiday.

The optimism did not come without caution, however, as SU's coronavirus testing protocols have been overhauled to prevent another potential outbreak. Going forward, every university member intending to come to campus must have a negative SU test on file within 30 days of their last test on a continual basis.

In addition to the new monthly testing requirement, there will be another mandatory round of tests following the campus' return from Thanksgiving break, with those intending to return required to schedule an SU COVID-19 test between the Sunday after Thanksgiving and

comes in part, "with the knowledge that COVID-19 can be transmitted even by those who are asymptomatic, particularly at times when people may visit older family members and others more at risk." All graduates are invited to participate during the in-person commencement once such events are no longer restricted due to the pandemic.

The ceremony is set to take place at 10:30 a.m.

Graduates may purchase commencement regalia, including caps, gowns, and specialty sashes and cords, as a keepsake from the SU Bookstore online Oct. 19 through Oct. 23, according to a recent commencement email.

Graduates are asked to monitor their emails and the SU commencement website as more details are released.

the Thursday of that week.

Students, staff and faculty can schedule their post-Thanksgiving test now using a link at the bottom of SU's COVID-19 Testing Information page.

All SU COVID-19 testing will continue to be administered at the former Court Plaza shopping center, 1506 S. Salisbury Blvd., with self-swab tests now available with the assistance of an on-site registered nurse.

Wight did reiterate that SU testing will now be expanded to four days per week, with longer hours of operation, to curb long wait times for those in line.

Wight also announced that remote learning would remain an option for students in the spring despite the recently low positivity rates, though students will also have, "more opportunities for the kind of face-to-face classes that SU has been famous for," next semester.



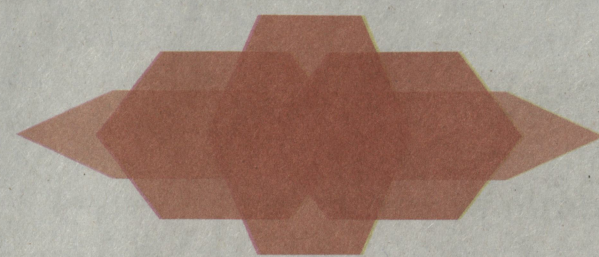
## COVID-19 continued...



Salisbury University Facebook

"[As well as] those who are being randomly selected each week, SU's COVID-19 testing is open to students and employees who are symptomatic; are asymptomatic

but may have been exposed; or are interested in getting tested for any other reason," according to the SU COVID-19 Testing Information page. Wight confirmed that fall semester classes are still slated to conclude on Friday, Dec. 11. For more information on SU's new monthly testing protocols or to view the latest university COVID-19 test results, visit <https://www.salisbury.edu/coronavirus/testing-info.aspx>.



## SU mourns loss of senior after dirt bike accident

By Jakob Todd/ News Editor

The Salisbury University community is mourning the loss of senior Sky Danee Campbell, who was killed the evening of Oct. 10 following a dirt bike accident in Carroll County.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office and Fire/Rescue personnel responded to the reported minor vehicle collision between two dirt bikes at 8:13 p.m. that evening.

One bike was driven by a 24-year-old man with no passengers, while the other was driven by a 24-year-old man with an accompanying 22-year-old passenger, who was later identified as Campbell, according to the initial investigation. Both drivers were taken to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center with serious injuries, while Campbell was taken to the Carroll Hospital Center, where she was later pronounced dead.

All individuals involved in the accident were not wearing helmets, police said. Campbell was a full-time SU nursing



Remembering Sky Campbell GoFundMe page.

student enrolled in the College of Health and Human Services and was planning to graduate in the spring of 2021, according to a campus-wide email from SU Student Affairs.

Campbell was also a member of the Student Nurses Association at the university. Per the email, funeral arrangements are currently being prepared, with the family communicating details with friends and classmates.

A GoFundMe page was started Oct. 13, "to assist with [Campbell's] service arrangements and medical bills," according to the fundraiser.

By the following evening, \$39,433 of the \$50,000 goal had already been raised from 849 donors.

The fundraising goal was subsequently raised to \$100,000 on Oct. 15.

Any potential charges will be determined following the conclusion of the currently open investigation conducted by the Carroll County Sheriff's Office Crash and Reconstruction Unit.

Support resources are in place at SU for individuals in need of counseling or mental health services.

The SU Student Counseling Center may be reached at 410-543-6070 or [counseling@salisbury.edu](mailto:counseling@salisbury.edu).

The SU Cares Case Manager for students may be contacted at 410-543-6080 or [sucares@salisbury.edu](mailto:sucares@salisbury.edu).

The SU After Hours Support Line, available for students, faculty and staff, may be reached at 833-631-1066.

## Students v. administration: the university 'blame game' during COVID-19

By Jacob Beaver/ Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Salisbury University held a special event at the school's Honors House to announce that donors Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke had presented the university with a planned endowment of \$1.5 million for the university's Honors College.

In turn, SU revealed its plans to rename its Honors College in dedication to its new donors: the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College.

The Clarke Honors College is now among the likes of the Charles R. and Martha N. Fulton School of Liberal Arts, Franklin P. Perdue School of Business, Richard A. Henson School of Science and Technology and Samuel W. and Marilyn C. Seidel School of Education as the university's fifth endowed academic branch.

The Clarkes' continued support and investment is not limited to just the Clarke Honors College endowment, however, as other philanthropic contributions include a \$300,000 donation for the Nina Dixon and Grover F. Chatham Schol-

arship of Salisbury University, aiming to bring more of Glenda's future fellow James M. Bennett High School graduates the college experience she once delighted in.

According to the couple, their journey together was sparked by their many similarities upon arrival to Salisbury University in 1968. Having met in registration lines arranged by last name, Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke appear to have been brought together by fate. The two were both commuters as well as first-generation college students, which only added to their encounters.

Glenda Chatham Clarke, a former English teacher and reading specialist, and Robert G. Clarke, a former chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges, have spent decades bettering the lives of students in across the country.

"Both of [the Clarkes] are educators, they're passionate people, and they're ... good people that want to see the world evolve and want to see us talk about citizenship and what it means to be a global citizen, as well as giving back to one's community," said Dr. Andrew Martino, dean of the Clarke Honors College. "The Clarkes are the perfect partnership in my

mind [for SU]."

On why the couple decided to pursue an endowment, Robert G. Clarke conveyed that they, "wanted to have something long-lasting, something that will be there long after [they're] gone ... [the students] are the future of our country, and we want to make sure that they have all the advantages they possibly can."

SU President Charles Wight furthered the idea that the endowment will provide unimaginable growth for the campus community in the years to come.

"[The Clarkes'] generosity will impact the lives of our students in ways they and we are unable to predict."

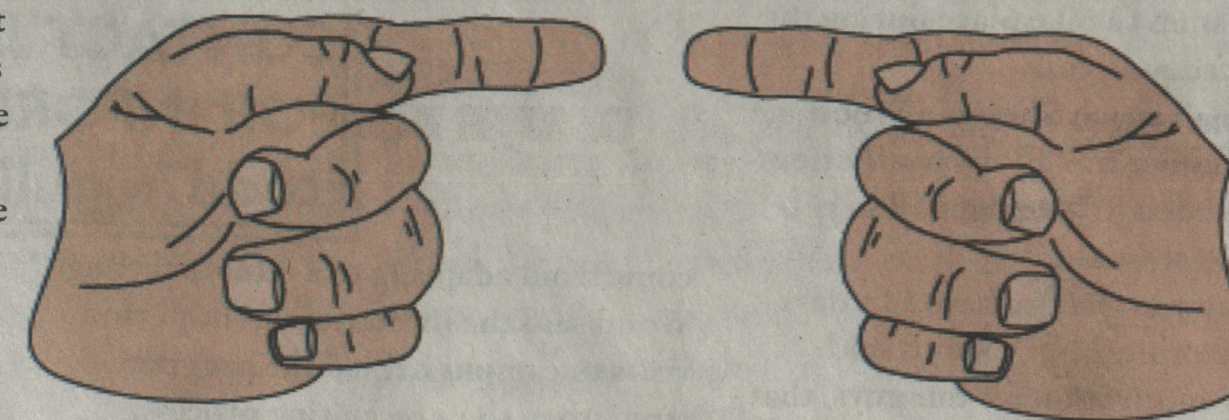
Current Honors students such as Jack Lenox are immensely appreciative of donors such as the Clarkes actively supporting and believing in the potential contributions that honors students can make for society in the future.

"It's really important that donors or alumni are able to give back to the school because without that generosity and kindness, students like myself wouldn't be able to explore the impact that we can have ... and see ourselves through to our success."

"SU is an integral part of this com-

munity, and by supporting SU, President Wight, Dean Martino and others' efforts ... [donors can] set the foundation for the future," said Robert G. Clarke.

The Clarke Honors College will continue to encompass its three programs — Belavance, Business and Henson — as the honors community continues to grow and diversify among students interested in a multitude of fields in the coming years.



Debates across the country have been fueled by university responses to the pandemic. Graphic by Mac Cotterino

## Latinx and Hispanic students, faculty underrepresented at SU

By Victoria Fears/Staff Writer



OLAS 2019 Executive Board, from left to right: Karla Chicas, Raquel Ordenez, Ginger Danser-Mena, Alex Guzman, Karen Jimenez, Nathaniel Mejia, Ariella Garcia-Queche and Arianna Gomez.

Latinx and Hispanic students and faculty are underrepresented at Salisbury University in comparison to the nation, according to the SU Analysis, Reporting and Assessment report for fall 2019.

4.8% of the university's undergraduate enrollment and 2.3% of tenured and tenure-track faculty were Latinx or Hispanic, yet a vast 18.30% of people in the United States

identified as Latinx or Hispanic in the latest U.S. Census in 2016.

SU's proportion is in-line with those of Maryland and Salisbury,

where Latinx and Hispanic populations are smaller compared with other states and cities across the country, with the city of Salisbury sitting at 5.9% in the census. SU Chief of Staff Eli Modlin said the university is working to remedy their problem with underrepresentation.

"[The Latinx and Hispanic percentage gap] is not only a problem for SU but a problem more generally in higher education," Modlin said. "But it's one that I think we have to have a stronger focus toward."

SU professor of Spanish Carolina Bown said there is an opportunity to fix this problem, however, as the number of Hispanic and Latinx students going to college is trending upward, increasing by 13% from 1993-2014, according to studies done by the Pew Research Center.

Bown believes a big part of attracting the demographic is by also attracting their parents, since there is a strong family-centered culture within Hispanic and Latinx communities.

"Latinx parents want to make sure their children have support on campus," Bown said. "If they know there is someone the students can ... talk to, I think it helps." Modlin said one of the ways the university is working to lower the gap is by sending Latinx and Hispanic students from the school's Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) on admissions trips, including sophomore and first-generation college student Ginger Danser-Mena.

As vice president of OLAS, Danser-Mena works to create a "family feel" within her organization to help other Latinx and Hispanic students feel more at home by holding weekly meetings, participating in admissions events and being a part of the activities fair. She is also currently working to create a "family night" for OLAS where family members can come to a meeting.

"We try to provide students with a safe space to talk about certain things and the ability to make friends of the same race or ethnicity," Danser-Mena said. "We are trying to make it more family-oriented."

As of right now, OLAS has no permanent place on campus to call home. The only place Latinx and Hispanic students of the group could use to gather is the Multicultural Center, which is a resource for all minority students.

However, Corrine Pubill is advocating to change that.

Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies and the faculty advisor of OLAS, Pubill personally knows the majority of Latinx and Hispan-

## Salisbury fall teams begin safe

return to play By Nick Lewis/ Sports Editor

After an extended wait, fall sports have returned to practice at Salisbury University.

On Oct. 1, the football, field hockey, volleyball and men's and women's cross country teams were able to begin training. Men's and women's soccer had their first practice on Monday.

The return to the field has not come without obstacles.

On July 21, the Capital Athletic Conference and Salisbury University announced the suspension of competition for sports in the fall due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The New Jersey Athletic Conference made the same announcement one week later.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association said teams would be permitted to practice and workout during the fall semester, provided Center for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local guidelines were followed. They allotted 114 days for prac-

ic students on SU's campus and wants to help create a more permanent space for them.

"We know that in future years we are going to have a drop in students going to university, but we are going to have an increase in Latinx students going to university," Pubill said. "So, we need to find ways of attracting them to SU, and for now, we [haven't done] enough."

Anthony Rojas, a chemistry professor at the university believes another way to attract more Latinx and Hispanic students and help them feel more at home is to create a mentoring program. As one of the few SU Latinx professors teaching outside the Spanish Department, Rojas also understands the importance of being able to connect with people of similar cultural backgrounds.

"Minority students are thrust into this place where they have no experience, no background and nobody looks like them, so they can't go talk to them and find this cohort of people who identify with their struggle and at least relate," Rojas said. "Being around people who understand you is so meaningful to develop a sense of community."

First-generation college student Luisa Samayoa personally knows the struggle of figuring out college for herself and said it would have been tremendously helpful to have a Latinx or Hispanic advisor when she first started at SU.

"I definitely feel like I ... could come to [a Hispanic or Latinx advisor] for comfort or to speak about personal problems, and that they would understand and not judge," Samayoa said. "I don't think us Latinos have a safe place to go on campus."

Yet, in order to have minority mentors, SU must first hire more minority faculty. Modlin said the university is in the early stages of making more room within the budget to be able to post faculty job opportunities on sites that appeal to diverse populations, though he also conveyed that faculty hiring is a much longer process than attracting students and depends heavily on retirements.



tices and games to take place during the 2020-21 academic year.

Head football coach Sherman Wood said this number was all the inspiration his team needed to give their all in getting back on the field.

"Our slogan was that we have 114 days to win a championship," Wood said.

"That's the motivation for our guys, that after that [announcement], every little bit counts."

The beginning of the semester was a tough time for both student-athletes and fall coaching staffs. Attempting to prepare for a season that was largely up in the air has a unique set of challenges. Wood said one of the biggest goals for the football staff was to keep communication with the team.

"When the decision was made, our kids were down," Wood said. "It was pretty tough for them. It was our duty to make sure that we all as a staff were in touch with our kids."

The field hockey team has faced a unique situation as well.

With nine freshmen on the roster this season, senior goalkeeper Dom Farrace said the team has had to find remote ways to get to know each other.

"We're doing everything we can around it," Farrace said. "We're doing Zoom meetings, group chats, contacting each other as much as possible ... it's all been a process."

Despite the challenges, some good has

come from adapting to a remote setting. Wood said the limitation on in-person visits to campus helped the program strengthen their recruiting process. He also mentioned the accountability that comes with being a student-athlete while trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"If you're part of a team, you can't make selfish decisions," Wood said. "That was our biggest deal and it opened up a few eyes, especially with the new guys." The return to the field comes at the perfect time for Farrace.

As the only senior on the field hockey roster, Farrace hopes for the opportunity to compete this spring.

"It would be amazing," Farrace said. "I could finish my senior year out just on



Senior goalkeeper Dom Farrace extends for the save during a practice on Oct. 6. (Brad Boardman image).

time, the right way."

All SU student-athletes are required to get tested every 14 days, twice as often as the general student body. In addition to this, masks are worn in the locker rooms and throughout the duration of practices and any equipment used is disinfected after every practice.

Due to the large roster, the football team split practices into two sessions to ensure social distancing would be possible.

Wood said that despite the adjustments, the early practices have gone well.

"It's been working great," Wood said.

"The guys are excited, we're all happy just to be out here doing what we love the most."

Chamberlin said these practices have meant more than just preparing for game days.

She said it is important for the student-athletes to have the opportunity to do what they love, particularly for their mental health.

"Field hockey has been a big part of their life for many, many, years," Chamberlin said. "To rip that away from them, it takes a mental toll ... They need that outlet, to do something they love to do and get back to some sense of normalcy."

## WANT TO WRITE FOR NEWS? CONTACT JAKOB TODD FOR INFORMATION

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compromise."

"Parties don't appear in the constitution. The founding fathers didn't really want parties ... they anticipated that we would become really polarized, be at each other's throats, and not get anything done," Hoffman added.

In my opinion, the two-party system has served as a detriment concerning our government, slowing down or inhibiting our ability to create change.

In today's world, decisions need to be made quickly, so citizens can adapt.

The two-party system's polarized views, as discussed by Dr. Hoffman, inhibit decisions from being made in a timely manner, which could ultimately serve as a detriment to U.S. citizens.

This is one of many issues with the two-party system.

In addition to creating a divide between government officials, the polarization also divides U.S. citizens as opposed to bringing people together.

"The parties in the electorate ... that's individual people, and there you see the con-the downside of party polarization when you see ordinary people hating on each other because 'they're a democrat, they're a republican.'"

The extremely polarized views have created "sides," encouraging the use of definitive, stereotypical terms that do not apply to every republican or every democrat.

What's worse — it creates tension and prejudice between American citizens who should be working together, collaborating when faced with political issues.

Now, if you feel the two-party system is too polarized, creating unnecessary division, you might ask: why hasn't the green party been more successful in electing presidential candidates?

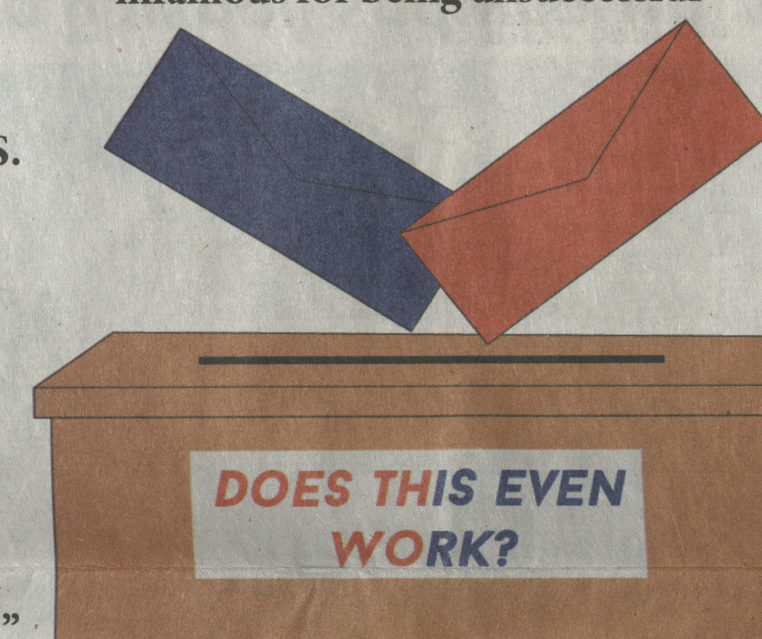
Dr. Hoffman explained that the

green party's lack of success impacted by overpowering restrictions created by democratic and republican parties.

"They dominate and — the two major parties put, what we call structure barriers in place, to prevent the green party from having a lot of power. It's sort of the definition of monopoly or a duopoly."

"... Every state has a state democratic party — so Maryland has the Maryland democratic party and the republican Maryland democratic party and those institutions, the state party, are actually responsible for setting up those rules. So yeah, it's sort of like the fox guarding the hen house. They're not going to make it easy for another party to get on the ballot and to emerge," Dr. Hoffman explained.

Third-party candidates seem to be infamous for being unsuccessful



during presidential elections. However, despite its infamous reputation, U.S. citizens still vote for green party candidates.

For example, it is my understanding that some members of the SU Democrats, a club specifically created to discuss democratic views and opinions, are voting for green party candidate, Howie Hawkins, this upcoming election.

This is particularly surprising considering the club's specific focus on the democratic party's values.

This shows that there must be something wrong with the two-party sys-

tem if people are voting for someone who has a low chance of even getting elected.

Although the two-party system contributes to limited, polarized candidate options, the parties do associate specific political values with specific political groups.

"The pro is that parties allow voters to better understand politics and understand the candidates and understand the choices between the candidates. In political science, we call it a learning heuristic which is another word for a short cut. I mean, the majority of voters aren't that educated about issues, about candidates, a lot of people just don't have the time to do the research..." Hoffman acknowledged.

Although the two-party system simplifies what typical members of each party believe, the two-party continues to divide members of the government and citizens by electing many officials with polarized views. What good is it in understanding "what it means" to be a republican or democrat if you're political beliefs fall elsewhere on the political spectrum?

Not everyone's views are as polarized; many people's political values are multifaceted which is why there seems to be a conflict with the two-party system.

As Dr. Hoffman explained, "a third party emerges only when a large portion of the public decides that either of the two major parties aren't addressing something that they think is really important — aren't addressing it adequately. That can happen."

Thus, I do not believe a two-party system is effective in representing the views of those whose political views, fall between the left and right ends of the political spectrum. The two-party system also hinders us from working together and creating change efficiently.

# Editorial



## Is a two-party system really working in our favor?

By Olivia Ballmann/  
Editorial Editor

With the 2020 U.S. presidential election just around the corner, many Salisbury University students, staff and faculty are making their final conclusions about which presidential candidate they're supporting.

Many are opening their laptops, unfolding their newspapers, and tilting their recliners to view the latest political news.

However, if you're like me, you've noticed the polarization of the democratic and republican parties and the negative consequences this polarization has had during the 2020 presidential election.

This polarization within these two political groups has led me to question: is a two-party system really working in our favor?

In an interview with Dr. Adam Hoffman, a political science professor at Salisbury University, I was able to get some more insight on this topic.

According to Hoffman, the intense polarization of the two parties, views that are extremely toward the left or right end of the political spectrum, have only become common in recent years.

"It's [polarization of democratic and republican parties] have only really been in existence for about 25/30 years maybe ... Before that, there were a lot of people in the middle [combination of democratic and republican values]."

Dr. Hoffman believed this change was likely influenced by the media which contributed to and enabled the spread of polarized views to millions of viewers.

"In politics, just like physics, every action creates a reaction," Hoffman stated, explaining if one party releases extreme democratic or republican views, the opposing party will react in the same way.

Thus, as explained by Dr. Hoffman, more and more people are exposed to polarized views within the media, which effects how candidates choose to campaign, often resulting in polarized views of citizens and government officials.

Regardless of how this polarization has happened, our ability to work together, to create change in the government has been negatively impacted by this division.

"In this highly polarized environment, there's definitely some disadvantages in the sense that both parties can't get together. Someone once said that politics is the art of compromise, and in congress for instance, it's extremely difficult for congress to get anything done because of this polarization and because either party is unwilling to

## Why voting still matters By Allison Guy/ Editor-in-Chief

It's that time again: a presidential election is just around the corner. Every four years, the nation finds itself on the cusp of a threshold as it collectively decides who will lead our nation.

For Salisbury University students and other college students across the nation, a presidential election is a chance to make our voices heard.

However, historically, the voter turnout among college students has been low. According to a study from Tufts University, in the 2016 presidential election, voter turnout among college-age students was 48.3%. That is up 3% from the college student voter turnout in 2012, but it still means that less than half of college students are voting in presidential elections.

So why is it so important to vote?

The first reason is that if you vote, you have the opportunity to shape the political landscape of the future. By voting for one candidate or another, you are showing your support for that candidate's policies or proposed policies.

Your influence may seem small — after all, one person gets only one vote — but nonetheless, by voting for a presidential candidate, you are providing your own political input, contributing to what potentially changes our country in the next four years.

Second, voting is a privilege. We live in a democracy, so we, provided that we're adult citizens who are registered to vote, have the chance to cast our vote for who we want to see in office. In other countries with different political systems, residents may not have the choice of picking their leaders.



If you think voting isn't important, remember, there are other people in the world who are not even given the choice or opportunity to vote. Historically, this has also been the case. Voting has not been available to all adult U.S. citizens for the entirety of this nation's history. At the time the U.S. was founded, only white, land-owning men age 21 and above could vote. Gradually, more groups gained the right to vote. For example, the famous Nineteenth Amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women the right to vote, and the Indian Citizenship Act gave Native Americans citizenship and the right to vote in 1924. Additionally, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 barred racial discrimination in voting practices. It wasn't even until 1971, about 50 years ago, that the Twenty-Sixth Amendment lowered the legal voting age to 18. It used to be 21. Think of it this way: significant improvements have been made to increase the

accessibility of voting rights to different groups among the population. If you weren't a white male of at least moderate social status, during the founding of this nation, you wouldn't be able to vote. Throughout history, people have fought for voting rights. Activists who may have seemed radical at the time paved the way for you to be able to choose your elected officials. Don't let those activists' efforts go to waste. Even if your contribution to picking our elected officials, like our president, seems small, it's still worth something. You can vote and, you can make a difference. Voting is the primary way to make your political voice heard. It's an opportunity to shape the future of this country. Your vote will help determine the political future of the United States for next four years, so don't be silent at this crucial time. Take some time to consider the issues that matter to you, research the candi-



American Flag image by Emma Reider

dates' positions on these issues and vote accordingly. After all, you have unique, passionate opinions — it's time to let those opinions be heard. You have the ability to affect the future of this country. Take on that responsibility and handle it with care.

## On-campus housing vs. off-campus housing during the

### COVID-19 pandemic

By Adanne Uma/ Staff Writer

After the COVID-19 outbreak was announced, many colleges and universities around the United States took immediate action, closing schools, protecting the health of students.

During the Spring Semester of 2020, Salisbury University transitioned to on-line classes, many using the online platform, Zoom. However, this fall, Salisbury University has reopened, giving students the opportunity to live on-campus or off-campus.

Currently, the biggest question remains: Is it safer for students to live off-campus or on-campus during the COVID 19 pandemic?

After close consideration, I believe on-campus housing is safest for SU students because of underclassmen-related benefits, on-campus COVID-19 guidelines and enforcements and the accessibility of medical and safety resources. However, I'm not the only one who feels this way.

Jada Odom, an SU student currently living on-campus addressed the benefits of her living situation.

"...living on campus has its benefits, there are a lot of measures that we are taking in order to prevent the spread [of COVID-19]," Odom stated.

Additionally, Odom commented on SU's freshmen class, the class that is spending their first year at college amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's important to live on campus during Freshman year to get the experience but also to keep them safe!"

Personally, I agree with Odom; the Freshman class has just entered the university, and as such, it's important for them to live on-campus.

Many freshmen are still learning their way around campus; they need to understand the rules of the university.

Additionally, if they need any medical



Chester Hall Photo: Chester Hall, one of the many freshman dorms at Salisbury University (Photo credit Emma Reider).

assistance, living on campus provides freshmen with easy accessibility to health-related services. Since this is the first time SU is dealing with the pandemic, many have become the first generation of college students to experience social distancing practices on campus. I believe living on campus would help students adjust to COVID-19 related changes and precautions.

However, Odom also acknowledged the possible risk of roommates transferring the virus to one another.

"You are also exposed," Odom stated, referring to the chance of contracting COVID-19, risking a possible medical emergency and potentially having to quarantine all parties involved.

Although potential risks exist, many students, including myself, feel living on campus is safer.

Christian Diaz-Hernandez, an SU student gave further insight regarding his opinion of on-campus and off-campus safety.

"It's safer to live on campus because it's a more controlled environment," Diaz-Hernandez stated.

I believe this is true; the risk of testing positive for COVID-19 is lower because the initiatives and precautions enforced

by residential assistants (RA) within on-campus living. For example, I live in Seagull Square; we wear masks in the hallways, outside our rooms, a precaution that is enforced and encouraged by RAs.

Additionally, RAs will not allow more than one guest, per student, to visit resident dorms; any potential guest that does enter must also live on campus. RA's will not allow off-campus students or people

who do not attend the school to enter. On the other hand, regarding off-campus housing, I feel the risk of testing positive is higher because there are no guest restrictions — no limit as to how many or where the guests are coming from.

During an interview with Taxon Thomas, the leasing consultant of University Orchard off-campus housing, I was provided with information regarding the procedures for students who have tested positive for COVID-19.

"It's really every man for themselves," Thomas said.

However, Thomas added, "people call in to complain if their roommate has not been quarantined, we help students move to other units if they want to feel safer!" Although I believe on-campus housing is more effective in protecting SU's students, Thomas's statement does demonstrate off-campus housing is trying to help protect student health.

Even though an effort is being made off campus, on-campus housing has closer accessibility medical resources, such as the student health center, located directly on campus.

Therefore, I believe it is safer to live on campus because more resources are available to deal with COVID-19 related issues; resources such as the RAs and the SU health center.

## Review: 'Epiphany' art gallery and artist D'Shon McCarthy

By Jacob Beaver/ Staff Writer

According to the Guerrieri Student Union Art Space webpage, D'Shon McCarthy, a junior at Salisbury University, began exploring her love for art at the Visual Arts Program of Wicomico High School and has continued her artistic passions at Salisbury University, planning to attend the New York Academy of Art for her master's degree after graduating SU in 2022.

The following pieces within the "Epiphany" collection were on display at the Guerrieri Student Union Art Space. McCarthy's portraits in this collection each incorporate a set of specific and calculated set of emotions enhanced through visual elements such as her use of juxtaposition, shape and color.

One of her pieces, "Detonate," features a dizzying collection of vibrant 3D shapes and flowers which evoke a sense of fluttering chaos around the self-portrait.

The environment surrounding McCarthy in this piece, as well as her facial expression, evoke a sense of uneasiness and discomfort.

Another one of McCarthy's pieces, "Dissociate, Delusional, Deliverance," illustrated McCarthy herself, entangled in a sea of yellow and blue swirls and external magenta hands.

What excels the most in this painting is not only the juxtaposition of the 2D swirls with McCarthy and the hands' 3D figures, but the eyes. The eyes within this piece truly evoke a sense of dissociation from reality.

Additionally, the power of this piece is also enhanced by the relaxed facial features that juxtapose the swirling surroundings within the piece's background.

McCarthy's pieces are also enhanced by her use of self-reflection and emotion which is particularly present in her piece, "Dial Tone."

In this artwork, a fractured mirror separates McCarthy from her reflection which is applying makeup.

As addressed in the Guerrieri Student Union Art Space webpage, thick layers of oil paint to are capture the various highlights and shadows of light on McCarthy's skin. However, what first appears to be a scene from a typical morning routine with makeup is quickly revealed to be something more.

According to the Guerrieri Student Union Art Space webpage, a bottle of liquor sits beside McCarthy, accompanied by panicked eyes, referencing the presence of men in McCarthy's life.

In addition to the self-portraits within the "Epiphany" showcase, McCarthy also features a portrait of her twin sister as mentioned by the Guerrieri Student Union Art Space webpage.

In "Half and Half," McCarthy's twin sister, D'Shae, is adorned with vivid, saturated flowers and butterflies, demonstrating the artist's impeccable use of color.

What is most striking about McCarthy's "Epiphany" is the artist's ability to capture feelings and emotions.

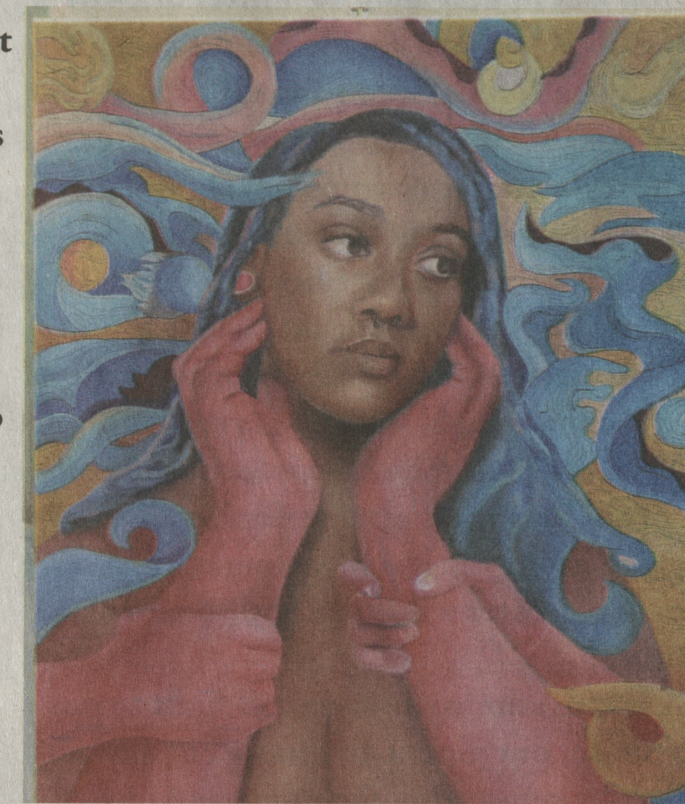
The use of saturation, vibrancy and intricate shapes assist in the portrayal of stress and anxiety which is not unfamiliar to viewers, especially in modern times.

D'Shon's artwork portrays strong emotions and feelings.

She seems to be lost in beautiful worlds which amplifies her artwork, proving to be more than just a simple self-portrait.

The art invites the viewer to dig beneath the initial image, trying to understand the artist's perspective. However, it also invites viewers to reflect on themselves.

Thus, I applaud McCarthy's use of shapes, textures, and shades; they not only define McCarthy's world and emotions, but they also assist in creating emotions that viewers can relate to and reflect on.



Dissociate, Delusional, Deliverance" by D'Shon McCarthy, photo taken by Summer Shaper

## Why SU students should vote Biden for president

By James Reedy/ Staff Writer

The 2020 election is filled to the brim with high stakes, propaganda, and polarization. It would be ignorant for me to claim that I have all the answers because no one can know everything. However, there is a surefire difference between fact and falsehood, as well as beneficial and destructive policy.

To prepare for the 2020 presidential election, I've taken time to identify my top political priorities, listened to experts in areas that I'm unfamiliar with, and remained up to date with credible independent fact-checkers.

With full confidence, I hereby claim that between Donald Trump and Joe Biden, Joe Biden is the candidate who best suited for the oval office come 2021.

One of the most haunting revelations from Trump's America would be the treatment of undocumented citizens legally seeking asylum at the overcrowded southern border detention centers. According to PBS News Hour, "I believe These Women" Ocasio-Cortez Says of Migrants in Detention Centers, Repre-

sentative Ocasio-Cortez, after voluntarily being sworn in, testified to congress how migrants, "were being told to drink out of a toilet bowl ... [to sleep] on concrete floors," and how, "the things that were needed most [were] not resources but policy change (PBS)." This situation has also been inflamed by child separation policies and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

A Biden administration will address these human rights violation and close for-profit detention centers, giving immigrants a chance to seek a prosperous life in the United States.

Another haunting revelation was learning that Donald Trump was briefed on the lethal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as early as February, and he covered it up.

According to a Forbes Magazine article, written by Ariel Sharpio, titled, "Fauci: Earlier Action On Coronavirus Would Have Saved Lives," national expert Dr. Fauci states that, "earlier action would have saved lives (Shapiro)." As if this wasn't enough, Trump's administration has hosted multiple super-spreader events from rallies to the

White House Rose Garden.

A Biden administration will listen to medical experts, encourage everyone to follow COVID-19 precautions, and expand accessible healthcare which would save lives.

It is a fact that the Trump administration is actively trying to rewrite our healthcare laws so that people between the ages of 18 and 26 will lose their health insurance.

We live in a world where practically every industrialized nation can guarantee coverage for all their constituents while also maintaining cheaper healthcare in comparison to the United States. As such, we should not be in a predicament where tens of millions of Americans are losing insurance.

This will only continue if the Trump administration continues to propose the elimination of the Affordable Care Act simply because their party did not compose it.

Having health insurance is important to me; in the event of a car accident, an ambulance ride, or even a pandemic related hospitalization, I certainly do not want to be paying thousands of dollars because



representatives have stripped away my rights.

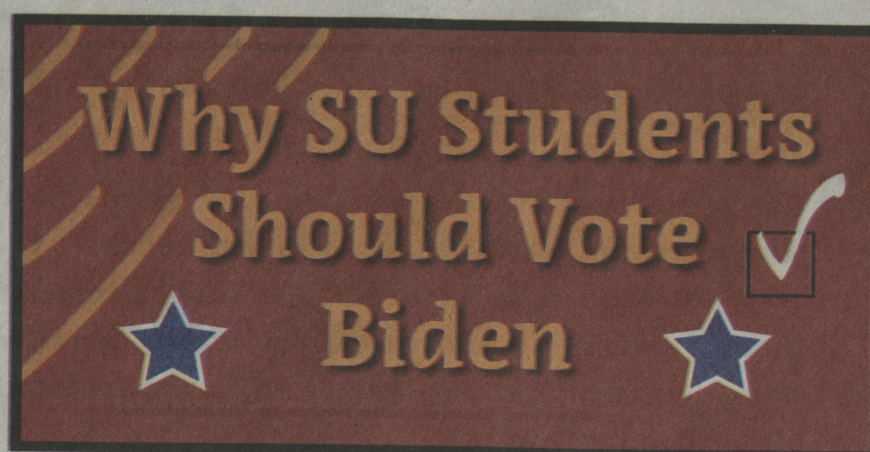
A Biden administration will fight for expanding healthcare coverage.

It is also a fact that skyrocketing college tuitions have plunged Generation Z students into tens of thousands of dollars of debt.

This reduces the likelihood of being able to accrue a substantial down payment for purchasing a house, often resulting in financial insecurity.

According to Joe Biden's campaign website, under a web page titled, "Plan for Education Beyond High School: Joe Biden," if elected Biden's administration will fight for public universities to become, "tuition-free for families that make under \$125,000 annually," as well as "\$10,000 of student debt relief," for those in similar circumstances (Biden). According to an online article by Alina Bradford, titled, "Effects of Global Warming," it is a fact that, "more than 197 international scientific organizations agree that global warming is real and has been caused by human action (Bradford)." Scientists also agree that this will cause rising sea levels, stronger hurricanes, greater wildfires, and so much more.

A Biden administration will fight to put science, our planet and innocent animals first by reinstating the numerous environmental regulations that the Trump administration has begun to eliminate. Even still, there is so much more!



Graphic by Mac Cotterino

According to BBC News, "Trump's Taxes: What You Need to Know," it is a fact that Donald Trump — a multi-billionaire — only paid \$750 in federal income tax in 2016 and 2017, and has refused to contribute any amount of income tax in other select years (Trump's Taxes). According to an NBCnews.com article, written by Danny Cevallos, it is a fact that Ambassador Yovanovitch testified to feeling intimidated by Trump's personal twitter attacks during his impeachment hearings, and it is a fact that witness intimidation is illegal and can be charged as a felony (Cevallos). According to Trump's Golf Account, it is a fact Trump has spent over \$137,000,000 in American tax dollars playing golf, and it is a fact that this is significantly more than Obama. According to an article in The Washington Post, written by Carol D. Leonnig and Josh Dawsey, titled, "Ivanka Trump Used a Personal Email Account to Send Hundreds of Emails about Government Business Last Year," it is also a fact that Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner —

Trump's daughter and son-in-law — have both conducted business using their personal e-mail servers in the White House despite claiming Trump's previous opponent, Hillary Clinton, should be jailed for the same incident (Carol).

These detention centers, government cover-ups concerning

the COVID-19 pandemic, catastrophic loss of health insurance, catastrophic student debt crisis, worsening natural disasters, tax evasion, abuse of power and current conservative hypocrisy are unacceptable, and in this regard, I believe Biden can contribute tangible, positive change through honesty and policy. Whenever I make decisions, I focus on what there is to gain and what there is to lose.

Although both candidates appear to be uninspiring from time to time, there is nothing to gain in voting for a third-party candidate who has no chance of winning, and there is nothing to gain by abstaining from voting altogether. A democracy is a form of government that works to adhere to the needs and wants of its citizens; government representatives are supposed to work for us. What will you say on Election Day? The sources mentioned in this article are cited below. Please acknowledge that the opinions featured within this article are that of the writer, not The SU Flyer.

## Why SU students should vote Trump during the 2020 presidential election

By Sebastian Acosta/ Staff Writer

In my opinion, Donald Trump is the preferable presidential candidate to re-elect this November.

When it comes to policy, I believe that the majority of Americans would agree with him and find him to be effective.

For example, according to R.J Reinhart's poll featured on Gallop.com's website, in 2012 only 41% of people say they were better off than they were four years ago, under the Obama/Biden administration. However, under the Trump/Pence Administration 56% of people say they are better off than they were four years ago which is much higher in comparison. This was again referring to Gallop.com's article written by R.J Reinhart.

Trump has also been a peace maker in reference to his involvement with the Balkans, Middle East, and Korea.

In the first years of Trump's administration, Trump was able to communicate with the leaders of South and North Korea, working to resolve tension between both countries.

According to BBC News, Trump was also able to get the Taliban and Afghanistan officials to sit down and talk peace.

According to BBC News, Trump played a significant role in normalizing ties between UAE, Israel, and Bahrain, work-

ing toward achieving peace in the Middle East.

Under Trump's administration, tensions between Serbia and Kosovo leaders were improved, resulting in an economic breakthrough, creating peace between the two rivaling Balkan states according to BBC News.

Trump has also brought home thousands of troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq, for the first time in history while the previous administration kept the war going and caused thousands of casualties in the Middle East according to a Military Times article written by Robert Burns and Zeke Miller.

In my opinion, Trump has made significant improvements to the economy for the American, especially considering minority groups.

According to CNN's business's section of their website, in an article written Chris Isidore, written on a platform that is not the most favorable towards Trump, there was record low unemployment rate of 5.5% in 2019 for black citizens. This was the lowest unemployment rate for black citizens in U.S. history.

Additionally, Trump has also improved wages.

According to the New York Times website, in an article written by J. Smialek, wages were rising under Trump's administration before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, before the COVID-19

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virus hit, the GDP and stock market were at an all-time high.

The GDP growth rate in early 2020 was 3% which is the historically highest growth rate in history.

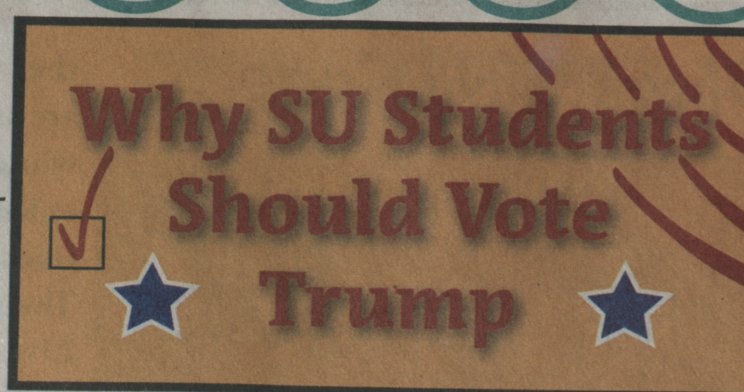
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy faltered, however, the economy quickly recovered-one of the fastest economic recoveries in U.S. history according to Krtm Radio, Bev Eddy's radio transcript.

In my opinion, I believe President Trump also handled the COVID-19 pandemic well.

According to Cato Institute, in an article written by Alan Reynolds, only 8 million people tested COVID-19 positive with two-hundred thousand dead; the projected deaths were 2.2 million from the virus.

According to the CDC's website, the last time we had an infectious disease, the 2009 swine flu, there were 60 million cases; I would like to draw attention to the fact that this was under President Obama and Vice President Biden.

In February of 2020, Trump closed many airlines that were traveling to and from Asia due to the outbreak of the corona



Graphic by Mac Cotterino

virus; according to my knowledge this information was released by the press secretary.

While some critics were saying this was a xenophobic act, Trump has stated the reason for the traveling restrictions were to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus among Americans according to a WSJ article written by Karl Rove. Although I believe the majority of efforts taken by the Trump administration have been positive, many critics believe Trump is a "racist" and supports white supremacy; this is likely due to the fact critics believe Trump has never condemned white supremacists and is endorsed by KKK. However, to my knowledge, Trump has condemned white supremacists and called them horrible people according to Factcheck.org, in an article written by Robert Farley.

In my opinion, he has done the most in comparison to other U.S. presidents in this regard.

As I mentioned previously, he made significant improvements to unemployment and wages among African Americans. Critics may also be skeptical with how Trump has handled the police and protests.

In my opinion, many believe this due partially to the fact of police brutality. However, according to a Gallop.com article, written by Lydia Saad, 61% of African Americans approve the current treatment of the police force and, 81% of African Americans say they want the same or additional patrol hours. Additionally, Trump has consistently supported the police and, every police union has endorsed Trump according to a Courthouse News Service article, written by Jack Rogers.

Because of these historical accomplishments accomplished in the past four years, Trump should be re-selected during the 2020 presidential election. Please acknowledge that the opinions featured within this article are that of the writer, not The SU Flyer.

## Gull Life

### RA life during COVID-19

By Laura Amrhein/ Staff Writer

Although our current social and political climate is filled with uncertainty, you can still count on Salisbury University clubs and organizations. On-campus clubs and organizations are still counting on student body involvement and have rewired the traditional format of their meetings and events to ensure the safety of all persons within.

Student Emily Donaldson divulged into her concerns with on-campus club participation, an explanatory factor for the majority of the student body: "My biggest concern is ensuring that everyone involved within these organizations is employing practices that will limit the spread of coronavirus."

"With everything going on, I want to make sure that I am not putting myself in danger through my participation," Donaldson explained.

Donaldson's concerns highlight the general state of hesitation to participate within campus clubs and have caused a general depletion in members throughout. On-campus organizations are here solely for the students' benefit, and our health is their main priority.

Campus clubs have employed a range of precautions within to promote student involvement and ensure that all participants are comfortable joining their organizations.

Club involvement can range from entirely virtual, or through socially distanced campus meetings and events.

Fraternity and sorority groups are still on the hunt for new members for their upcoming recruitment season, while simultaneously ensuring the safety

of their participants. Many are holding meetings on Zoom and on campus and have altered the traditional formal recruitment to be accessible virtually.

"Holding meetings on Zoom is still a great way to promote the bonding of our sisters and still form connections while actively social distancing," Carleigh Stokes commented on the alterations within Alpha Sigma Tau. "We are in the process of planning events in which we can still social distance, such as an on-campus scavenger hunt and an outdoor movie night."

Although the recruitment process will be altered in fraternities and sororities respectively, students still have the ability to participate within these organizations and create lifelong bonds with their brothers and sisters.

Sorority sister Taylor Windmiller explained it best, "We want people to know that we are still here and though things have changed, every one of us is in this together."

Participation within the numerous organizations offered through campus is more important than ever, all made possible through the precautions employed to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Each respective club has created ways to still be active within the organization, with many employing a mixture of Zoom meetings and socially distanced events.

Mental Health Advocates group member Marl Cimiluca divulged into the importance of the social interactions provided through on-campus clubs, as increased isolation has prompted the rise of mental health issues within our society: "We are following the path of our



Dave Gustoskey; Director of Housing and Residence Life

mission to promote health and self-wellness and aim to provide the students with a safe atmosphere where they feel comfortable."

Cimiluca then divulged into his fear of a lack of student participation due to our current educational environment, a concern explicit through the majority of organizational clubs on campus.

As the number of COVID cases rises and social distancing becomes a social normality, participation within the organizations offered through the university is more essential now than ever. The organizations provide an outlet for students to be socially active with their constituents, while ensuring that these interactions are safe for each party involved.

The uncharted territory that we have found ourselves in has created a confluence of confusion on the status of many clubs, but the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership is employing ways for students to still be active on campus. Its mission is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of campus life and the surrounding community and is actively creating safe ways for club participation.



## Alpha Sigma Tau and Black Girls Code

By Stephanie Rivera/ Gull Life Editor

The resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement has promoted the breaking down political and social barriers throughout all factions. No longer will people stand for the unlawful murders of persons based on the color of their skin, and the sorority of Alpha Sigma Tau is on the forefront of change.

The sorority has partnered with the organization "Black Girls Code," who aims to empower young black women through the implementation of educational programs within the subjects of Computer Science with a highlight on coding processes. Black Girls Code is a nationally recognized organization, and AST has partnered with their Salisbury chapter to raise donations for the movement and highlight all of the racial injustices occurring throughout the nation.

"What they're doing is so amazing," Director of Merchandise Carleigh Stokes detailed, "with everything that has been happening with police brutality and the BLM movement, we wanted to try and make a difference in any way we could." Their efforts to contribute was exhibited through their creation of an online campaign that sells AST branding merchandise. With all of the proceeds going to the Black Girls Code organizations educational efforts, the sorority is on the forefront of social change and hopes to inspire like organizations to utilize their resources and give back in any way they can.

The sisters have also organized the website to ship each item to the individual customers, comparable to the historic past of having to pick up the merchandise from one of the members.

"We wanted to make a change, make sure we can still practice safe social distancing efforts. This institutional change ensures that we can limit the spread of COVID-19, while still doing all we can to raise awareness for such an influential organization," Stokes revealed.

The philanthropy of the AST sorority is reflective of the Black Girls Code mission, women empowering women; the advancement of women within society



Black Girls Code national ad projected by the BGC organization is what inspired collaboration efforts.

If you are a woman looking to join an organization that is formulated for your advancement, the AST sorority is the one for you. Through their advocating for Women's Wellness Initiative philanthropy, supported by group exercises and inter-community activities that motivate the sisters to be the best versions of themselves.

"Our philanthropy is to empower the advancement of women, and we do everything in our power to be inspirational for our sisters and motivate them to be their best selves," stated AST President Brooke Caracci. "We lift each other up through bonding activities to empower our sisters and want to motivate them to be positive and active members of the community." Members of the sorority want people to know that they are on the forefront of change, through political and social activism regarding the continual advancement of people of color and women. "Even though things are changing because of the coronavirus, we want people to know that Alpha Sigma Tau is still here to support the advancement of all persons within our society," Taylor Windermiller stated.

Windmiller then detailed all of the events they are implementing resulting from the virus, such as their replacement of a traditional Bid Day with a trunk-style drive by. Mevie Henderson was the forefront of this idea, in which sisters will drive by the homes of each recruited member to show their bidding support;

they want their members to know they are still supportive of their endeavors, while ensuring their safety through the enforcement of social distancing guidelines.

Their supporting stance on the Black Lives Matter movement solely indicates their enlightened ideology, and they are taking active measures such as their partnership with Black Girls Code. They are one of the few organizations through Salisbury University taking active measures to advocate for the equal treatment of persons within our country, regardless of gender or race.

"We wanted to take a stance, we support everyone in the Black Lives Matter movement and partnering with Black Girls Code is a way to show support for the movement while also supporting our Women's Wellness Initiative philanthropy," Stokes stated with pride. "Their movement is to empower young girls to become strong women, which is the mission of our sorority ... It's a perfect match and we want to help them in any way we can. Through this fundraiser, we can give back to our surrounding community, while also allowing us to show our support for the Black Lives Matter movement."

From T-shirts to crewnecks and the addition of a children's section, Alpha Sigma Tau wants to offer something suitable for everyone's interests. If you want to be on the forefront of social change, while also sporting beautiful apparel make a purchase on their website

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/ast-beta-mu/>

If you see "6 days left" on the website and are afraid you will miss out, do not stress! It is solely an indicator for the creation of new batches of apparel, with a new batch printing every seven days and shipped within seven days so customers do not have to wait extensive periods to receive their orders.

If you want to find ways to support the advancement of women and every race and stay an active member of the community, the sorority of Alpha Sigma Tau is for you! Email [astbetamupresident@gmail.com](mailto:astbetamupresident@gmail.com) and become the forefront of change.

## You tested positive — what happens?

By Laura Amrhein/ Staff Writer

When all students, faculty and staff were required to get tested a few weeks after Salisbury University began classes, for most, it felt like a one-time inconvenience. However, for some students, it became more than that when they tested positive, despite being asymptomatic.

Senior Jeremy Moxey, a psychology major, was one student who was caught off guard when he tested positive but had no symptoms.

"Yeah [I was shocked,] I'm the only one that's tested positive out of all my friends, [and] I'm the least likely that they thought would have [it,] and again, I went to campus one time before I tested positive [and] besides that nowhere else, so I just don't really understand it," Moxey said.

Since Moxey had no symptoms, his day-to-day life wasn't affected by feeling sick but instead was affected by the boredom and a lack of routine that accompanies quarantine.

"I don't have to get up to go anywhere now ... [I've] been on the computer a lot, playing soccer outside, using the trees as goals since I can't go anywhere. I mean that's about it," Moxey said.

It wasn't apparent to Moxey at the time that his mental health was being affected by having to quarantine and not being able to go anywhere or see anyone. Toward the end of his quarantine, however, he realized that the ordeal had taken a toll on him.

"At first, I would've said no [that it wasn't affecting me mentally,] but yesterday was the first day I got out to play soccer again, and I can definitely tell you yeah, it felt good to play soccer and actually be able to do things, so I think without me even knowing, yeah [it affected me,]" Moxey said.

Moxey is a commuter who lives at home with his parents and therefore quarantined there, and his family was also affected, ev-

ident when his mother tested positive. Unlike Moxey, she had symptoms, including a cough, fever and sore throat. "My mom's a nurse [and] she has been around it [COVID-19] kind of a lot, but she hadn't tested positive for it until I guess I brought it back. My sister and dad are still fine, so I think the only one who has really been affected was my mom," Moxey said.

While most of Moxey's classes were already synchronous or asynchronous online, he did have one in-person class that he couldn't attend due to his quarantine. "I had one in-person class, which I emailed her [the professor,] and she said it was perfectly fine, and now I'm doing online for it, so it was all good," Moxey said.

Despite the boredom and isolation, he struggled with, Moxey did feel as though the free time actually helped him improve his overall health habits.

"I've been running a lot more often now since I can't go to the gym; I kind of have a dedicated run time in the morning. I'm [also] actually eating better now that I'm not going to Cook Out every other day. I think habit-wise, it has done me for the better, but I guess that wouldn't be the same for everybody else," Moxey said. Throughout his quarantine, he wasn't

## The initiative and efforts of SU's COVID-19 task force.

By Olivia Ballmann/ Editorial Editor

Salisbury University has kept its doors open to students, staff and faculty during the everchanging COVID-19 pandemic. Time flies by fast, making it hard to believe the university has been open for over a month.

This, of course, could not have been possible without the initiative and effort of SU's COVID-19 Task Force.

The task force consists of various sub-committees each assigned a particular task, tasks vital to the re-opening of SU. Dr. Andrew Martino, the dean of Salisbury University's Clarke Honors College, served as a member of the COVID-19 Task Force, working to transition students back to on-campus classes.

"We knew that dedensification was key to being able to open the campus back up," Martino recalled, addressing one of the biggest challenges his subcommittee had to face.

Dr. Martino recalled the abundant amount of time and effort staff and faculty spent preparing for SU's inevitable re-opening; task force members spent most of their summer preparing for SU's fall semester.

"We [the task force members] met about once a week, and then it was maybe once every two weeks," Martino stated. Additionally, Martino emphasized the focus and initiative the task force dedicated to getting students back to campus. "There wasn't a time, that I can remember, that we weren't thinking about COVID."

"I can't remember not thinking about this [re-opening SU during the COVID-19 pan-



Richard Wilkins Associate Provost for COVID task force contacted by SU except to be told that he was positive and then cleared.

"I guess after the testing they [the administration] sent me that I was positive [and] that I couldn't come to campus, and then besides that, the only other email I got was the one saying that I was cleared to come back. Everything else was dealt by the Dorchester County Health Department," said Moxey.

However, students who live on campus and test positive have the option to quarantine in Dogwood Village, a housing unit on campus.

According to Dr. Dane Foust, vice president of Student Affairs, the number of students in Dogwood Village under quarantine is rather low. He stated that as of Sept. 25, only four students were

demic] over the summer. It was almost all consuming."

Martino expressed the efforts taken by the task force were completely worth it, acknowledging the advantages to in-person classes as opposed to online learning. "The social aspect [of in-person learning] is absolutely essential, you can't replicate that online. There's just no way to do it." Many students, staff and faculty were eager to return to SU's campus for this exact reason.

"This [online learning] is not something we can do long term," a statement that further explains the vitality of the task force and the re-opening of SU.

Martino goes on to explain the most difficult challenge amongst many of the sub-committees: the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's really hard to plan for something that is constantly changing ... that's really frustrating and it keeps you on your toes."

"Dealing with the unknown becomes a real variable in how we approach this," Martino adds.

However, the determination and dedication of the task force did not let this unpredictable time stop them from getting students back to school.

"We completed our task: How to re-open successfully," Martino concluded.

In addition to getting students back on campus, Dr. Richard Wilkins, Salisbury's Associate Provost and Chair of

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actively quarantining there. For students who are staying in Dogwood Village under quarantine, the university is more involved than it is with students who are quarantining at home, such as Moxey. According to Foust, the health center checks on the students three times a week in person, and there is daily virtual contact.

The university also makes sure to provide some snacks prepared for the students when they arrive and works to ensure that they are able to get outside everyday so that they don't have to stay confined indoors.

While the university was considering partnering with a nearby hotel to potentially have more room to house COVID-19 positive patients, Foust stated that there currently is no need to do so, especially due to the falling positivity rates, which can be seen in the last round of testing. 174 tests were administered, and only two came back positive, which is a 1.1% positivity rate.

While no one wants to contract COVID-19, for students like Moxey, it is more of an inconvenience than anything. Students who do come in contact with the virus should be sure to properly quarantine and take active measure to take care for their mental health during the process.

the Instructional Planning team, also stressed the importance of the initiatives taken by the task force to make classes safer once students returned.

"We're monitoring and we're prepared to take steps to address any problems that come up..." Wilkins stated.

Wilkins continued, optimistically stating, "I think we've done really well, we haven't had a high positivity rate, up to this point, we have been surveilling and monitoring. And in the absence of that, I would be very unhappy, because then we would be flying blind, but we are not flying blind."

The task force's initiatives to frequently monitor COVID-19 cases on campus raised COVID-19 awareness, which has likely contributed to SU's ability to remain on campus.

This is just one of many efforts taken by the task force to protect the health and safety of SU students, faculty and staff. Additionally, Wilkins stated the task force's first and foremost concern was the safety and health of SU's students. "...health is our North Star, the health and safety of our students- that's more important to us than convenience for faculty, convenience for students, but it's really, we need to make the choice the best choice we can to preserve and protect the health of our students, while balancing that with achieving an academic mission."

If you're an SU student, you may be in a mix of in-person, online and hybrid courses.

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[srivera6@gulls.salisbury.edu](mailto:srivera6@gulls.salisbury.edu)**

The task force has prioritized the health and safety of SU's students. Additionally, the task force has also prioritized the quality of education stu-



As such, measures were taken to ensure that students, faculty, and staff could have the best academic experience possible.

“...we received some Cares Act funds from federal government, which we use a sizable chunk to prepare faculty over the summer. So more than 100 faculty participated in what we call Soren, which is preparing faculty for teaching online. It’s a five module program that included the basics, but also expected them to develop some product that would enable them to be a more effective professor, in addition to that, program in which more than 100 of our faculty participated in, we had workshops about using zoom in different technologies, and hundreds and hundreds of faculty participated.”

This additional training has been particularly useful for online and hybrid courses, where technology is of major importance.

Thus, the task force's dedication, initiatives, and efforts have allowed Salisbury University to remain open, kept students safe and provided them with the best possible form of education during this hectic time.

**Let's hear it for the COVID-19 Task Force!**

## Is hazing worth it?

**By Stephanie Rivera/ Gull Life  
Editor**

Hazing within college universities has been a normality for centuries. Although it is depicted as fun traditions to form bonds with your constituents, it's likely to be executed in ways that cause more harm than good.

There has been over 250 deaths directly resulting from hazing activities, with 89 of those deaths occurring from 2007 to the present. Acts of hazing range from forced alcohol consumption, humiliation, isolation, sleep-deprivation and sexual acts that are common across all types of student groups.

The acts of hazing are not stagnant to those acts, as FSL (fraternity and sorority life) Programming Board Anti-Hazing Chair Jessica D'Apice defined hazing as, "anything that makes someone feel singled out or uncomfortable through acts that they feel pressured to do based off of what other people want from them ... any organization that forces tasks to prove yourself as a member."

A common factor through the lack of reporting actions related to hazing stem from a perceived lack of resources, and general fear of backlash. Nationally, 36% of students say they would not report hazing primarily because, “there’s no one to tell,” and 27% feel that, “adults won’t handle it right.”

Salisbury University FSL program is attempting to confront both of these issues, through the anointing a SU student to be the head of the Anti-hazing league. Senior D'Apice represents an unbiased campus affiliate to which students can express their concerns surrounding hazing activities.

**In conjunction with planning the universities anti-hazing events, D'Apice provides an outlet for students to voice their concerns involving hazing activities.**

**"If there is anything that someone might feel uncomfortable about within fraternity and sorority life, I am always here**



*AST group at "Anti-hazing week" events*  
for anyone that wants to talk about their overall concerns or talk about the issues going on ... No one should feel that they have to complete certain tasks or look or appear a certain way just to fit in," D'Apice stated.

**The FSL also utilizes an Amnesty policy through the documentation of hazing activities, in which if a student reports hazing incidents, they will not be subjected to disciplinary actions through their actions of reporting.**

**Daniel Kautz, Alpha Sigma Phi's Vice President of Standards detailed their approach to combatting hazing, through which he detailed the characteristics of their anti-hazing policies and the actions they are taking to enforce their "Zero-tolerance" policy.**

“Every semester through the new member education classes, I detail the hazing policies and the risks and prevention methods, on a national level as well as the ones held throughout our fraternity ... Prohibited activities range from no scavenger hunts, no forced alcohol consumption and basically just don’t single out members and subject them to activities aimed too embarrassed and demote them.”

**To deal with hazing within the fraternity when it does occur, they have formulated a 'standards' process to be applied to reporting incidents.**

**“To combat hazing, if we catch anyone subjecting members through anything we have outlined or echo’s hazing, they immediately go through our standards process. We evaluate each situation and**

depending on the severity of the situation the consequences can range from social suspensions to even the ability to be removed from the chapter," Detailed Kautz.

The auspice nature of hazing results in the actions going unnoticed and brings about a plethora of issues, supported by the fact that 9 out of 10 college students that have experienced hazing behavior do not consider themselves to be hazed. Bringing awareness to the true dangers surrounding these actions is the first step in offsetting their occurrence.

The traditional nature of hazing is idealized to bond participating members through the engendering of social conformity, but D'Apice ensures that there is a multitude of ways to form bonds throughout these groups.

**“An important thing that organizations can do is spend a lot of time with new members, and truly get to know them for them and not necessarily looking for them to prove themselves (as members) ... anything in which there is a lot of bonding between members is really important, and can avoid the dangers of hazing altogether,” D’Apice detailed.**

**In 95% of cases where students identified their experience as hazing, they did not report the events to campus officials. The FSL organization is attempting to offset the divide through the provision of an outlet for members to voice their concerns, the plethora of resources they provide and the 'anti-hazing' events they orchestrate throughout the campus.**

A notable event held through the FSL organization is "These hands don't haze" through which students from all organizations on campus paint their hands and place them on a banner. This demonstration of solidarity against the occurrence of hazing has the ability to provide a sense of unification throughout the community of SU.

D'Apice divulged into the purpose and success behind these events. "Events like this can show the university that students

within fraternities, sororities and club organizations are taking the pledge to not participate in hazing and taking a stance against it ... It shows that it's not more of a statistic but that we're real people who acknowledge it and that we don't think that hazing is an appropriate thing to do on our campus."

The issues surrounding hazing are still prevalent within the collegiate community, with the most recent statistical analysis on the subject reporting that 55% of college students involved in clubs, teams and organizations experience hazing. Hazing activities have the pretense of formulating bonds throughout organizations, however they tend to have the opposite effect through the promotion of the seclusion and debilitation of individual members.

**“We’re a family, and we want everyone to be able to fit in and feel comfortable and safe ... we don’t want to put anyone in a position that they would feel uncomfortable in,” Kautz stated on his fraternity’s idealism against hazing.**

Kautz stance against hazing activities provides a baseline for campus organizations, as these groups are meant to provide sense of community unification within member students. Hazing solely promotes division throughout the community of Salisbury campus, and we must all take a stance against the depilatory nature of these activities.

A unified sense of action must be fortified in the present, before these activities harm or kill one of our own students.

D'Apice stated it best, "in the end everyone is human, and you don't need to prove yourself to feel a part of something ... there is no reason to haze, no one should rate other human's because in the end, we're all humans anyways."

For more information or to report hazing activities, contact Jessica D'Apice at [jdapice1@gulls.salisbury.edu](mailto:jdapice1@gulls.salisbury.edu)